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overgrown and morbid commerce, into this situation? and at the expiration of a few short months, if the Orders in Council cause the continuance of the American Embargo, and we do not receive ample supplies of flax-seed for next spring's sowing, let us inquire if our linen weavers and spinners will not be similarly distressed. The welfare of the staple trade of the north of Ireland is endangered by the commercial war in which we are engaged.

I shall give a few excellent lines, descriptive of our present state, from an anonymous imitation of the 8th Satire of Juvenal, published a few years ago, with which I lately met much to my satisfaction. They justly mark the present tendency to elevate the higher ranks, and depress still more the lower and middling classes of society.

"There meet the extremes of rank; there social art

Has level'd mankind by their selfish heart—

There no contented middle class we trace,  
The sole ambition to be rich and base,  
Some o'er their native element elate,  
Like ice-formed islands, tow'rd in frozen state,

Repel all nature with their gelid breath,  
And what seems harbour is the jaw of death.

The wretched mass beat down, the struggling mind,  
Nor see nor feel their country, or their kind:

But bow the back, and bend the eye to earth,  
And strangle feeling in its infant birth;  
Thro' all extends one sterile swamp of soul,

And fogs of apathy invest the whole."

The world appears to be divided into two classes, the *dupers* and the *duped*. The former make up for the smallness of their number by their superior dexterity, and their acting together in compact and by a kind of concert. The latter can only recover the long withheld rights of private judgment, by a moderate temperate assertion of their claims, and by calmly using their endeavours to increase their stock of knowledge and information. They then would not resign the important privilege of thought, nor would wars be carried on for the aggrandizement of the *few* to the oppression of the *many*. K.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,  
WHEN I suggested a few hints on the subject of saving bees during winter, I omitted mentioning the feeding of them, not because I was not aware of its importance, but because I conceived that observations on that point would more properly appear in a future number. The best time for feeding bees, is, I apprehend, early in spring, when upon examination, it is found, that the store laid up for the winter is not sufficient for their support, till they can procure a supply from the gardens and fields; I admit that it is proper to examine the hives immediately after the working season is over; that is the time when the proprietor is to determine which hives he ought to keep for the ensuing season; for it is extremely wrong to suffer hives not intended for stocks to remain after this period. Bees will consume more honey in one month towards the end of autumn, than during the whole winter. But I am of opinion, that it is best to leave such hives as it is proper to keep till the next season, with the store which has been collected, till toward spring when they are to be attended to, and fed, if necessary. It is not worth keeping a hive that does not weigh from 18 to 20 pounds, and a hive of this weight will in general be found to have a sufficient supply of honey, especially if there be a long continuance of cold, severe weather during the winter months; if there should happen to be much mild open weather, during winter, the bees will consume more honey; but it is time enough to examine early in spring, whether they have, or have not a competent supply: the exception to this is, when for some particular reason, we wish to keep a weak hive till the next season. In this case, it is necessary to grant the bees an immediate supply of honey, after the working season is over, to prevent them perishing, as sometimes happens, before the winter sets in, or during the winter months. It is not to be expected however, that hives which it is necessary to supply in this manner will repay the proprietor for his trouble and

expense. It is better to have a few strong hives, than to have a considerable number, which it is necessary to feed from time to time.

Various methods have been suggested by ingenious men for feeding bees. Some recommend to put honey diluted with water, into an empty comb, split reeds, or clean wool; and Wildman describes a particular kind of vessel which he invented for the purpose. Perhaps the very best plan which can be adopted is to feed bees with honey-comb, especially if that be true which is stated by the authors of the "*Maison Rustique*," that pure honey does not form a food sufficiently substantial for them and consequently subjects them to disorders. They advise therefore to feed bees with honey-comb, taken from another hive, the cells of which are filled with crude wax or bee-bread.

If honey-comb cannot be procured, raise the hive from the board on which it is placed, and set underneath it a small plate of liquid honey, covered with paper pierced full of holes, through this the bees will suck the honey without daubing themselves. In a few days the plate may be removed, and an additional supply afforded, if necessary. In case honey cannot be procured, dissolve fine sugar in water so as to make it of the consistence of liquid honey, and present it to the bees in the manner above described, or fill with it the cells of an empty honey-comb, and place it under the hive. Some prefer dissolving the sugar in milk, supposing that they thus obtain a substance more resembling honey. The use of milk can certainly do no harm, though I do not imagine that by this process any particular advantage is gained, with respect to the bees; I confess however that I have not made experiments sufficient to determine this point. Let those who have occasion to feed several hives, try different substances. It is certainly an object to such to ascertain what is most proper for the sustenance of their bees.

I may conclude these remarks by observing that it is advisable to be rather generous than otherwise in feeding weak hives. By affording them an abundant supply, they will be more forward in spring. Bees are faithful

stewards, and will amply repay their master for the plentiful provision he may make for their support. They will be stronger in spring, will most probably swarm earlier in summer, and produce more and larger swarms than hives which have been provided with a scanty store. A. Z.

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*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

LAWRENCE STERNE has found a defender in your last month's Magazine. I cannot agree in the opinion, that the death of an author should excuse him from just criticism. If his works survive and continue to have an injurious tendency on the public taste, no false delicacy should exempt them from merited censure. When I sent the *Anecdotes of Sterne*, I professed to have little acquaintance with his writings; I once made an attempt to read his *Tristram Shandy*, but found the first chapter so gross in its manner, that I closed the book with disgust. I like wit, but detest obscenity. I read his *Sentimental Journey* many years ago; and in it also I met with much to displease. His pruriency of manner was more glossed over, but on that account not less dangerous, for with an affectation of being refined, the delineation of some of his scenes is calculated to give other ideas than directly meet the ear; as in his account of the *Fille de Chambre*.

I give the following quotation from the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

"In every serious page, and in many of much levity, the author writes in praise of benevolence, and declares that no one who knew him could suppose him one of those wretches who heap misfortune upon misfortune. But we have heard anecdotes of him extremely well authenticated, which prove that it was easier for him to praise this virtue than to practice it. His wit is universally allowed; but many readers have persuaded themselves that they found wit in his blank pages, while it is probable that he intended nothing but to amuse himself with the idea of the sage conjectures to which these pages would give occasion. Even his originality is not such as is generally supposed by those fond